

FURTHER NOTABLE DIPTERA
FROM WINDSOR FOREST

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DOLICHOPODIDAE

(Ten or more species of *Dolichopus*, with others of the family, can be taken by sweeping the lakeside vegetation at Virginia Water.)

Hercostomus assimilis Staeg. — One, Virginia Water, vii.72; an uncommon species which I have taken also in N.W. Kent.

Hercostomus chalybeus Wied. — At the same place, scarce and apparently extremely local, vii-viii. 72. I have found it nowhere else. Fonseca (1978) cited this record and one from Old Windsor Wood (taken by Chandler, 16.vii.67) among 14 known localities.

Hercostomus chrysozygos Wied. — Two males of this very local species (easily recognized in that sex) by sweeping in a fire-break near Badger's Brook in the Forest, 24.vii.71.

Medetera ambigua Zett. — Two males on the butt-end of a well weathered portion of large old chestnut trunk left lying on the edge of a cleared part of the South Forest, along with two females of *M. impigra* Coll. (not scarce in the area), 24.vii.71. *M. ambigua* is another uncommon species taken by me in N.W. Kent (one only).

Achalcus melanotrichus Mik. — An example emerged from mould out of an elm stump at H. Hill, 21.vi.71. Not as rare as generally supposed, if sought in the right situations.

PIPUNCULIDAE

Verrallia beatricis Coe. — A female swept a little way inside the forest at H. Hill with 2 ♀ *V. villosa* v. Ros. (a close ally), 8.vi.71. The differences were very clear — the *beatricis* agreeing perfectly with a ♀ from my Blackheath garden.

SYRPHIDAE

Didea fasciata Mcq. — A ♀, only the second individual I have met with of this conspicuous and uncommon genus, was caught at elder blossom, with an *Epistrophe grossulariae* Mg., at the edge of the forest at H. Hill, 17.vi.71. Recorded by Chandler (1971) who tells me that it occurs regularly in small numbers in May and June at H. Hill.

(*Epistrophe diaphana* Zett.) — Recaptured in the Forest on 17.vii.71 — a ♀ visiting hogweed flowers near Badger's Brook. One previously in 1940 (Allen, 1965).

Leucozona glauca L. — My sole encounter with the species hitherto was on 24.vii.71 — a pair caught at the same spot and in the same way as the last. Taken in the Forest by C. O. Hammond

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(Chandler, 1971). Like *Bibio pomonae* it is common in the north and west but very local in the south-east.

Leucozona laternaria Müll. — Far more general than *glauca* although found singly as a rule, and mentioned here as Chandler gives no Windsor record. It occurred to us in both the Park and the Forest on umbels of *Heracleum*.

Melangyna guttata Fall. — A male of this rather rare hover-fly on hedge-parsley flowers, H. Hill, 3.vi.71.

Parasyrphus lineola Zett. — At flowers of bramble and stitchwort in June and July; apparently widespread but somewhat scarce, mostly in the Forest but also in the Park. I have not found it elsewhere.

Cheilosia soror Zett. and *C. scutellata* Fall. — Single males of both species in the Forest, June 1940, not determined at the time of writing my earlier paper. As Mr. Chandler remarks, many more species of this genus than have yet been found must occur, including such common ones as *vernalis* Fall. and *impressa* Lw.

(*Eumerus ornatus* Mg.). — A second specimen (♂) of this decidedly infrequent species was netted by G. S. near the 'Xylota clump' (see below under *X. tarda*) at H. Hill, 17.vii.71, only a short distance from where I took the first in 1940 (Allen, 1965); like that one, it was settled on bare ground.

Chrysogaster macquarti Lw. — A few examples of this very local fly occurred on the lakeside at Virginia Water in July 1972 unaccompanied by any of the commoner members of the genus.

Orthoneura nobilis Fall. — Two or three on massed flowers of what may have been *Cotoneaster watereri* (covered with bees etc.) in the Park, 1.vii.72.

Parhelophilus frutetorum F. — In small numbers in company with the last; both must have come from some marshy place or ditch in the vicinity.

Anasimyia lineata F. — Rather common by the lake at Virginia Water. Not recorded by Chandler.

Mallota cimbiciformis Fall. — G.S. believed he saw one in the Park at the place for *P. frutetorum* above (same date), and another (which I too saw) on a wild rose in the Forest near Badger's Bridge (late July).*

Brachyopa pilosa Coll. — Males on sappy beech stumps in the latter area and one from hawthorn bloom, female swept from birch rather high up (all late May); both sexes from small sappy oak stump in the South Forest, June: males always prevalent. *B. bicolor* Fall., which I took in the Park in 1968 (Allen, 1968) did not recur, but Mr. Chandler took a ♂ at H. Hill, 1.vi.80, on a decaying beech with *B. pilosa*.

Brachyopa scutellaris Dsv. — Our most widespread species, but it turned up once only (♂, 3.vi.71, at H. Hill on fallen beech); I have taken but one other, in my old garden at Blackheath. *B.*

* On a recent visit to the Park (20.vi.82) Prof. J. A. Owen drew my attention to a fly on a hogweed umbel in the area referred to above under *Brachypalpus* which, duly netted, proved to be a fine *Mallota*.

insensilis Coll. seems far more frequent, and we found it at H. Hill on a sapping elm (its usual botope). *B. scutellaris*, however, is not confined to old woods as *pilosa* and *bicolor* tend to be, and Mr. Chandler informs me that he has found it at localities in 10 counties.

Xylota tarda Mg. — A scarce species in southern England and not known from the Forest, until I caught a male at H. Hill on or about rhododendron foliage, 17.vi.71. (We noticed that flies of this genus seemed uninterested in the flowers, but liked to bask on the leaves mostly low down, above all on one particular clump at H. Hill next to a large prostrate beech trunk, when lit by the afternoon sun.) I was on the point of rejecting the *tarda* as only an undersized *seguis* L. (the commonest species), but luckily thought better of it. On that memorable occasion, we took, jointly, all the then known British *Xylotae* within the space of an hour or two.

(*Xylota xanthocnema* Coll.) — This, along with *X. florum*, was to us the least frequent species in the locality after *tarda*. G.S. captured several, including a ♀; at the aforesaid rhododendron clump (4.vii.71), as well as a ♂ on 17.vi, and I netted a ♂ there on 17.vii. The spot is near where my two original males were caught (Allen, 1965).

(*Xylota sylvarum* L.) — Not nearly as common in the area as either *seguis* or *nemorum*. A ♂ settled on a beech trunk in the Park, 24th Sept. 1980, is perhaps worth noting because of the date.

(*Xylota lenta* Mg.). — Not found by us outside the special station at H. Hill where males were not uncommon in June 1971, also occurring singly deep in the shady-forest about beech timber, but for a week or two in that year only. I saw no female at any time.

(*Xylota nemorum* F.). — This proved common throughout the Forest (we did not definitely see it in the Park, except in the woods at Virginia Water), chiefly affecting stacks of cut beech boughs (oak rather less) as well as logs and stumps, and was much less in evidence on foliage — unlike the next two, etc.

Xylota abiens Mg. — More widespread than several of the species, occurring sporadically in the Park (♀, beech stump) and at Virginia Water (♀, swept by the lake), but as with *lenta* etc. its headquarters seemed to be on the edge of the forest at H. Hill; males not rare in early June, sunning on low foliage of rhododendron.

Xylota florum F. — Very local and scarce as a rule, but a good locality for it was discovered by G. S. near Badger's Brook, where he took several males on 17.vi.71 and a few more on later dates, some on umbels of hogweed, others low on sunlit alder foliage; I netted one from the latter on 17th July, and another male from rhododendron foliage some distance away near H. Hill, 17.vi.72. The two specimens referred to *florum* in my 1965 paper were mis-determined, careful re-examination showing them both to be *abiens* (the small ♀ perhaps abnormal); the former species is thus in fact an

addition. (Note: in this genus, females are normally much less in evidence than males.)

(*Brachypalpus laphriformis* Fall. (*bimaculatus* Mcq.)). — On 21st May, 1972, one was boxed by G.S. as it emerged from under loose bark high up on an oak trunk which he was working with the aid of a ladder, in an area of the Park lying to the north of the main Ascot road. On 2nd June, not far from this spot, we came upon a very few more (all males, I think) flying about and settling on the ground near a large old hulk of oak and low on the trunk of a beech nearby. They were not easily caught and we secured one each. (My 1940 specimen, wrongly recorded as a ♀, was in fact a ♂).

(*Caliprobola speciosa* Rossi). — Somewhat erratic and apparently localized, rare in 1971, much more frequent in the next two years. In the forest at H. Hill, (which we often visited), only one was seen, about an elm stump in early evening, 3.vi.71; but on 2.vi.72, in the Park, at the second spot mentioned under the last entry, we found it not very uncommon, then and on various later occasions that year and the next; though once or twice it failed to appear when conditions seemed right. Its habits here were precisely those of *Brachypalpus*, but it extended over a wider area which took in a large blown-down beech some distance away, in the high broken-off stump of which it was undoubtedly breeding. Most often these splendid flies settled on the ground, less often on the trunks etc., occasionally on nearby tree foliage; they only showed themselves in sunshine. Finally, one was seen to alight upon an oak stump in another more wooded part of the Park near Union Gate, 6.vi.73. Unlike most of those caught at may blossom in 1940, all captured specimens were males in perfect order, with the following exception.

On 3.vi.73, G.S. witnessed the oviposition-behaviour of a female at the broken-off beech already referred to, my note of which is worth quoting: — "The fly appeared hovering in the hollow of the trunk, settled on the surface of the wood-mould that half filled it, and quickly buried itself, scraping away the loose particles with its feet and almost disappearing from view after a few moments. In about half a minute it reappeared and flew straight up into the net placed over it." The remarkable feature of this observation is surely the rapidity with which the whole process was completed (assuming that an egg or eggs had actually been laid).

Criorhina asilica Fall. — We had the pleasure of meeting with this for the first time at H. Hill on 3.vi.71 (though already found by C. O. Hammond), each obtaining two — mine are both males. Except for one netted by G. S. a little inside the forest about an elm stump filled with wood-mould, they were flying around and alighting on flowers of rhododendron fairly high up at the forest edge. Curiously, we never for certain saw the species again, which seems nearly as scarce in the area as *C. ranunculi* Panz. Like *B. laphriformis* it is a good honey-bee mimic.

(To be continued)